

Municipal fire prevention committee holds inaugural meeting

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District combined forces with the city of Orinda and the town of Moraga and formed a joint fire prevention subcommittee, tasked with bringing forward innovative ways to reduce wildfire risk on the 14,000 district parcels. The group met for the first time on June 22.

The subcommittee came about after a concerted effort by mostly Orinda residents, who pressured the city and the fire district to devote more resources to fire prevention measures. District residents complained about an insufficient amount of money spent on fire prevention, and challenged the three agencies to put together a funding plan to solve the

problem.

Among ideas proffered at the meeting was the formation of a joint powers authority, comprising the district and the two municipalities, to create and administer a funding mechanism, possibly through a parcel tax, as MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker noted that a heightened fire prevention program will require a major multiyear, multijurisdictional effort.

But before anything official could be considered, Vice Chair and Moraga Mayor Kimberleigh Korpus reminded the members that the subcommittee needed to come up with a charter, outlining what the subcommittee can and cannot do.

Future discussion items include having Orinda provide for an aggressive fuels reduction program on city owned property as a part of its potential 1% add-on

sales tax measure on the November ballot. The subcommittee will also review what more the fire district and the municipalities can do to improve fuels mitigation efforts, such as a stronger effort on community education.

“This was an important first step,” said Darlene Gee, mayor of Orinda, who was appointed subcommittee chair. “This is the first time the three public entities have met together, and it provided a forum to talk directly with one another and for the public to participate.”

In addition to the two mayors, the subcommittee includes the three MOFD directors from Orinda and one council member from each municipality. The group expects to hold its next meeting before the end of the summer.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday,
July 15, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, July 14, 1:00 p.m.
Board Chamber Room 10
Administration Building
651 Pine St., Martinez.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



State throws last-minute lifeline to Lamorinda school districts

By Nick Marnell

All four Lamorinda school districts enter into the next school year facing financial uncertainty, but thanks to a late June compromise by state lawmakers the situation may not be as perilous as it once seemed.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, California faced a massive revenue shortfall as the state was thrown into a recession, and Gov. Gavin Newsom had proposed cutting K-12 funding by \$6.4 billion for 2021. The state also proposed to delay \$5.9 billion in funding, pushing back payments to schools until next year.

“In all the years I’ve been teaching, I feel a desperation I’ve never felt before,” Charles Shannon, president of the Orinda Educators Association, told the Orinda Union School District board of trustees, as beleaguered school districts slashed expenditures as they prepared budgets for the coming school year.

But at the last minute, after school district budgets had been approved based on reduced state funding, Newsom and the legislature worked out a deal that rescinded the proposed K-12 cuts. “The state budget will not be quite as bad, with minimal reductions from the 2019-20 budget,” John Nick-

erson, superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District, said.

Instead of a 10% cut in state funding – the No.1 revenue source for most California school districts – the state will reinstate that revenue. But gone is the 2.31% cost of living adjustment for the next fiscal year.

“It’s not the best news, but it is much better than it could have been and very manageable,” Richard Whitmore, superintendent of the Lafayette School District, said.

There is a catch. Though the governor eliminated the cuts, he is deferring state payments to the schools until 2021-

22, which could present a cash flow problem for school districts. If the federal government provides the state more stimulus dollars, some of those late payments may go away. “But they are significant,” Whitmore said.

Cash flow does not appear to be a major concern for Lamorinda school districts. “On the one hand, any deferral is problematic as it decreases the ability to address emergencies,” Bruce Burns, superintendent of the Moraga School District, said. “On the other hand, the MSD is prepared for the proposed June to July deferral. In brief, we do have the cash for payments.”

Even with the increased funding from the state for 2020-21, school districts face a choppy road ahead. “Clearly, we have a structural deficit and significant fiscal challenges,” Nickerson said, and based on their budget presentations, the same conditions exist in both the Moraga and Orinda Union school districts.

The Lafayette School District looks to be in positive operational shape, thanks in large part to revenue from local parcel taxes. Whitmore said that the \$800,000 district deficit projected for next year will be eliminated by the increased state funding.

Planning commission approves Terraces, but saga far from over

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The commission heard from many people in favor of the project’s potential to address the need for housing, and encourage diversity, notably many young people calling on the city to “seize the opportunity to push Lafayette forward,” and decrying what one called the “growing exclusionary attitudes in Lafayette.”

The commission also required several conditions, including working with the Design Review Commission to look at a change in placement of several of the buildings to make the visuals less imposing and for the shuttle bus service to BART to be expanded to include downtown. “If it’s going forward we need to make it the best project ever,” said Maggio.

Save Lafayette Founder

Michael Griffiths said after the meeting that he was not surprised by the vote. “The planning commission was fed erroneous information and pressured to make a decision last night, so the 5-2 result was inevitable,” he said.

Griffiths went on to warn that a similar decision by the city council on appeal would have a long-term disastrous impact for Lafayette citywide.

Byran Wenter, attorney for the applicant, said on behalf of his client after the meeting that they were grateful to the planning commission for their approval.

“After nine long years and every form of legal and political challenge, the commission recognized that the Housing Accountability Act required approval of the Terraces,” said Wenter, adding, “The Terraces

will add much-needed apartment housing to the community. Because of this vote, more people will be able to enjoy the benefits of living in Lafayette.”

Wenter has previously warned that legislation could cost the city up to \$15.75 million if courts find the city acted in bad faith in denying the project.

The matter is expected to be appealed at the city council level within days.

Orinda is open for business, cautiously

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Café Teatro, located on Orinda Way below the library, recently renewed their lease, but owner Joe Kim says that business has been terrible. “Regulars come in for coffee and food,” he said, but with nothing going on, no events, and when the library was completely closed, it was bad. However,

Kim feels lucky to have a good patio. Although he felt confident renewing the lease, he thinks that business won’t be back 100%. Siam Orchid, across the street, continues to do takeout business only. Owner Pepsi Phunmongkol says that with 21 tables inside, he could place them six feet apart to provide for social distancing, but for the time being the takeout business

has picked up.

Baan Thai owner Jim Phoonpirom said that he was kind of scared because most people don’t wear masks. He is fine for now with pickup only, and said that only two or three customers had asked about reopening. Genuine Goodness owner Donna Pickhall said she was closing for the month of July to review her menu and

how to operate in a safe and efficient way. “We don’t want anybody inside,” she said. “Eventually we will be taking orders at the door, but we need a place for customers to line up.” Geppetto’s Caffe owner Frank Leou said that his patio seating has been busy, but many customers have been calling to ask when the café will be open for inside seating.

City Manager Steve Salomon has said that he has offered to work with local restaurants to provide for more outdoor seating, but he hasn’t met with an enthusiastic response. Several restaurants contacted for this story said that they are concerned about the health and wellbeing of the owners and staff and are happy to continue with takeout for the time being.

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
925-284-5010

Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
925-299-3221

Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report



June 14 - June 27

Alarms	52
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	65
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	24
Suspicious Vehicle	13
Service to Citizen	55
Patrol Req./Security Check	38
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	21
Vacation House Check	11
Welfare Check	14
Ordinance Violation	4
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
800 Block Las Trampas Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1000 Block Sierra Vista Way	
1000 Block Sierra Vista Way	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Brook St./East St.	
S Thompson Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
3200 Block Ameno Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1st St	
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center	
Deer Hill Rd./Happy Valley Rd.	
Other criminal activity	
Commercial Burglary	
3400 Block Golden Gate Way	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Computer Fraud	
1400 Block Edwards Ct.	
Fraud Credit Card	
500 Block Silverado Dr.	
Fraud False Pretenses	
3700 Block St Francis Dr.	
1400 Block Sunset Loop	
Grand Theft	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.	
3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.	
Grand Theft Veh Parts	
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.	
Misc Burglary	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Petty Theft	
3600 Block Brook St.	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
3600 Block Boyer Cir. (2)	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
1100 Block Hillcrest Dr.	
1300 Block Masterson Ln.	
Petty Theft Bicycle	
900 Block Risa Rd.	
Shoplift	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
700 Block Solana Dr.	
3800 Block Los Arabis Dr.	
3600 Block Brook St.	
3400 Block Springhill Ct.	
Loud Music	
3400 Block Echo Springs Rd.	
3100 Block Quandt Rd. (2)	
Loud Party	
1400 Block Rancho View Dr.	
Mcgraw Ln/Reliez Valley Rd.	
3100 Block Quandt Rd.	
Public Nuisance	
3300 Block Silver Springs Ct.	
3300 Block Orchard Valley Ln. (2)	
1100 Block Nogales St.	
Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Peacock Blvd./N Lucille Ln.	
3600 Block Baker Ln.	
10 Block Eleven	
Garden Ln/Laurel Dr.	
1000 Block Stuart St.	
Los Palos Dr./Glenside Dr.	
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
Vandalism	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
3600 Block Brook St.	
Other	
Fireworks	
Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.	
Acalanes Av/Pleasant Hill Cr.	
500 Block Merriewood	
Lucas Dr./Lucas Cr.	
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.	
H&S Violation	

10 Block Eleven	
Police Department	
K9 Outside Assist Request	
1500 Block Canyon Rd., Mor	
Byron Hw/Camino Diablo, Byr	
Trespass	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Unwanted Guest	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Violation Custody Order	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
1200 Block Warner Ct.	
Violation Restraining Order	
Police Department	

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



June 16 - June 29

Alarms	5
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	27
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	60
Patrol Req./Security Check	12
Supplemental Report	14
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	2
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
Not Available	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr. (2)	
St. Andrews Dr./Moraga Way	
Eastwood/Moraga Way	
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (3)	
St Andrews/Country Club Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
2000 Block Ascot Dr.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
400 Block Woodminster Dr.	
1900 Block Ascot Dr.	
Post Office	
Police Department	
Tc - Property Damage	
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Other criminal activity	
Grand Theft	
Safeway	
100 Block Moraga Rd.	
Identity Theft	
10 Block Idlewood Ct.	
1800 Block St Andrews Dr.	
Petty Theft	
1800 Block School St.	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	

100 Block Moraga Rd.	
Residential Burglary	
100 Block Calle La Montana	
Theft Access Card	
Police Department	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbing The Peace	
400 Block Kingsford Dr.	
Loud Noise	
1300 Block Larch Ave.	
Buckingham Dr./Natalie Dr.	
1100 Block Rimer Dr.	
Loud Party	
10 Block Buckingham Dr. (2)	
200 Block Paseo Bernal	
Public Nuisance	
Ace Hardware	
Moraga Country Club	
Vandalism	
200 Block Rheem Blvd.	
School St./De La Cruz Way	
Other	
Dependent Adult Abuse	
Safeway	
Fireworks	
Campolindo High School	
Joaquin Moraga Int School	
Ordinance Violation	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	
200 Block Paseo Bernal	
Trespass	
500 Block Moraga Rd.	

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

June 14 - June 27

Alarms	40
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic	19
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	7
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	92
Patrol Req./Security Check	31
Supplemental Report	9
Welfare Check	12
Ordinance Violation	2
Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	
70 Block Moraga Way	
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24	
Auto Burglary	
500 Block Bear Creek Rd.	
500 Block Tahos Rd.	
Dui Misd	
100 Block Orinda Way	
Wb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo	
Hit And Run Felony	
500 Block Moraga Way	
Altamount Dr./Moraga Way	
Mcdonnell Nursery	

Petty Theft From Vehicle	
Rite Aid	
10 Block Quarry Hill Rd.	
70 Block Moraga Way (2)	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.	
Bates Blvd./Warford Terrace	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Orinda Park Pool	
Veh Parts	
4200 Block El Nido Ranch Rd.	
Vehicle Theft	
10 Block Spring Ct.	
Other criminal activity	
Fraud False Pretenses	
10 Block Del Mar Ct.	
10 Block Orchard Rd. (2)	
10 Block Aspinwall Ct.	
Grand Theft	
Rite Aid	
Grand Theft From Vehicle	
San Pablo Dam Rd./Wildcat	
Canyon	
Identity Theft	
10 Block Southwood Ct.	
80 Block Orchard Rd.	
100 Block El Toyonal	
Panhandling	
40 Block Santa Maria Way	
Petty Theft	
10 Block Theatre Sq 106	
Rite Aid	
Robbery Armed	
10 Block Camino Sobrante	
Shoplift	
Rite Aid	
50 Block Moraga Way	
Cvs	
Warrant	
Cam Pab/Cam Sobrante	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbing The Peace	
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.	
20 Block Mariposa Ln.	
Loud Music	
90 Block Nobl Ln.	
10 Block La Fond Ln.	
100 Block Crest View Dr.	
Loud Noise	
200 Block La Espiral	
Loud Party	
Estabueno Dr./Lavenida Dr.	
Wildler Rd./Dairy Creek Ln.	
Public Nuisance	
Oak Rd./Stein Way	
Vandalism	
200 Block Camino Pablo	
100 Block Zander Dr.	
Other	
Loitering	
Miramonte High School	
Trespass	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Unwanted Guest	
Safeway	
Violation Custody Order	
Orinda Theater	